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THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Missionary Outcomes of the Balkan War

1. The outcome of the war in the East will in all probability result in new avenues of approach to Mohammedan people. Mohammedanism will lack the watchful care formerly enjoyed from the Turkish government. Adequate measures of protection for other faiths will be the probable outcome of the reorganized state of the East. An urgent appeal for help from Western civilization in educational and missionary phases is sure to result.

2. The Methodist and Congregational churches are already preparing to enter the door opened in the Balkan fields on the release of the Balkan States from Turkish control.

3. According to the verdict of the Peace Conference in London, 2,000,000 Albanians are to have the right of self-government. This will mean release from Moslem fanaticism which has compelled reluctant but only nominal adherence to Islam. The Greek church stands to profit little by the release, for since the armies of Greece in the recent war have swept the country with fire and sword, rapine and plunder, murder and outrage, robbing churches and priests, they are hated worse than were the Turks. Here is an open door for Protestant Christianity which because of the confidence and regard with which Protestant missionaries are held can and can alone save the land from religious anarchy, when the yoke of Islam is removed.

The Powaks, or Bulgarian Moslems, in the Chepino Valley in the heart of the Rhodope Mountains are reported to be turning over wholesale to the Greek church. The overwhelming defeat of the Turk has impressed the imagination of a fatalistic

people. The unchecked march of Bulgarian troops has been Allah's will. The report is that 300,000 applications for baptism have been received. The watchwords of the movement are "Brotherhood" and "Bulgaria." The emergency has come upon the Greek church with such dramatic and overwhelming suddenness as to make it impossible to cope efficiently with the inrush. At Chepino the new Christians dug up the font of the buried and lost Christian church desecrated and forgotten since 1657.

China's Appeal for Christian Prayer

The Chinese government appealed to all the Christian churches in China to set aside April 27 as a day of prayer for the Chinese National Assembly, for the new government, for the president of the republic, for the maintenance of peace, and for the election of strong and virtuous men to office. Representatives of provincial authorities were instructed to be present at these services.

The significance of this is most remarkable when we call to mind the facts that only thirteen years since a dispatch was sent from the imperial throne to all the viceroys of all the provinces to exterminate all foreigners, and the imperial government of China hunted and slew her Christian subjects like wild beasts, and used all the sources at her command to drive the religions of the "foreign devils" from her shores. Contrast with this attitude that of Yuan Shi Kai in his address a few weeks ago to the Y.M.C.A. convention in Pekin:

You, my friends, who are members and delegates to this Christian association, from every province of the republic, are examples for the men of every class of society. By the help of your guiding light and uplifting influence, mil-

lions of young men well equipped, morally, intellectually, and physically will be raised up in this nation to render loyal service to the republic in her time of need and lift her to a position that shall add to the civilized world an undying luster.

What an encouragement to the patient missionary toilers is such a public and national recognition of the value and need of the gospel they are preaching! It was indeed appropriate that the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America should call upon all American Christians to join China in a day of prayer.

Missions and the Minister

“What Missions Will Do for the Pastor,” rather than what the pastor can do for missions, is the subject of an article in the March number of the *Foreign Missionary Journal*. In the first place, the article points out that an interest in missions will broaden the pastor’s world-view. It will bring him more or less closely into touch with the life, manners, and customs of lands other than his own. In the second place, it will dignify his ministry. It will make him feel that the work he is engaged in at home, no matter how seemingly insignificant it may appear, is in reality part of a great universal movement. In the third place, it will teach him to pray. If the pastor is deeply enough interested in missions he will pray for their furtherance.

A Missionary to the “Lumber-Jacks” of Oregon

The *Spirit of Missions* reports that a Presbyterian layman, specially commissioned to minister to the “lumber-jacks” of Oregon, last year visited 132 camps, preached to 13,000 men, distributed 1,350 pounds of reading-matter, held numerous services, and visited over 1,000 sick men.

Mohammedan Albanians

In the *Homiletic Review* for May, Rev. C. T. Erickson, a missionary among the Mohammedan Albanians under the American Board, reports a remarkable trend toward Christianity on the part of the Moslem Albanians. They declare Mohammedanism was forced upon them and that they were Christians before they became Mohammedans, and that everything that is evil and degrading has come to them through Turkish domination. These Albanians are the oldest race in Europe—older than the Latin and Greek peoples—and have retained their language and customs even when driven into southern Italy and Greece. A very significant thing he adds is that the Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholics, and Mohammedans alike all agree in demanding a Protestant European prince as their ruler. Their ideals are European, not Asiatic.

Recent Tendencies in Continental Religion

A royal order has been issued from the ministry of war, in Madrid, Spain, by which non-Catholic soldiers when not under arms may be excused from attendance at mass on Sundays and week-days. This is one of the signs that religious tolerance is coming to its own and the rights of Protestants are beginning to be recognized in Spain.

In contrast with the above, a fresh outburst of persecution against the Baptists has occurred in Russia. Baptist chapels have been raided and closed by secret police. In Siberia a whole colony of Russian farmers were evicted for the crime of being Baptists. The annual meeting of the Baptist Union has been forbidden. The Holy Orthodox Synod seems to be behind these persecutions through the person of Procurator-General Probiedonostyeff, who proves no less cruel and fanatical than his predecessors.